REGINALD L. JACKSON

African Extensions: A Photographic Search for African Survivals in The Americas

BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

John A. and Helen P. Becker Gallery

7-22 March 1981

Co-sponsored by the

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

The purpose of the work in which I am currently involved is to show in concrete terms (using graphic arts, film photography, and print material) that Africanisms do, in fact, exist in the Americas and in the Caribbean. Understanding how they manifest themselves will support the concept of the durability, depth, and perseverance of African culture with an end to understanding the Afro-American experience.

The concept of cross-cultural influences and accommodations speaks to sharing and/or broadening — perhaps rejecting — forms of expression that take place when one culture meets another culture. West Africa has been the focus of my visual study and documentation since 1970. I have recorded close to 35,000 color and black and white images on West Africa alone.

My work in Brazil (Salvador, Bahia, and Sau Paulo) has led to a comprehensive study of African religious survivals as demonstrated in the Afro-Brazilian religion, the Candomble. A soon-to-be-completed 30-minute color film of this vital form of expression of African survivals and a series of 40 images, which I term "Afro-Ethnographs," help bring together important philosophical and technical concerns. They represent the "culmination of any effort that comes about through vigorous research from an Afro-centric perspective of Black people that successfully raises key cultural concerns and utilizes the highest level of artistic excellence in the mastery of the medium and materials peculiar to photographic art."

Reginald Jackson is Associate Professor of Art at Simmons College.

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Thursday 12 March 1981

3:00-5:00 pm Becker Art Gallery. Reception for the Artist.

7:30-9:00 pm Daggett Lounge. Lecture/slide presentation. "Festac '77 and Current Research on African Survivals in the Americas (Brazil, Cuba and U.S.A.)"

The Fishermen Series #1, 1978
The Fishermen Series #3, 1978
The Fishermen Series #6, 1978
The Fishermen Series #7, 1978
The Urban Ceremonial Mask — Series #1, 1980
The Urban Ceremonial Mask — Series #2, 1980
The Urban Ceremonial Mask — Series #4, 1980
The Urban Ceremonial Mask — Series/The African Meeting House #1, 1980
Oshunmare Transformation — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979
Messias as Oshunmare — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979
Yansa, The Storm Goddess — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979
Umolu, Protectorate Against Pestilence and the Plague (Smallpox) — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979
Oshunmare, The Rainbow Queen — The Orisha Series, Brazil, 1979
No Credit Please, 1970
Unity, 1970
Tom Jones, 1974
Imani, 1976
Senegalese Performers — Festac Series, 1978
The Benin Ceremonial Mask — Festac Series, 1978
All works lent by Reginald Jackson, Dorothy Denniston, Marcia Holford, and Elizabeth Rawlins.

JACKSON

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